The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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The fountain of every state is the education of its youth. —Diogenes.

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WORKERS MUST STUDY SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Workers' colleges and workers' study classes are justified in the annual report of President Angell of Yale university.

It is generally understood that university graduates are equipped to lead in developing democratic thought, to direct democratic institutions, and that they are awake to the significance of present-day social and economic changes.

But these changes are unknown to the university student, according to President Angell. The undergraduate is "ill-informed about political affairs and notably indifferent to them, except in the presence of an election," he says.

"A few ardent souls are always stirred by the anrichteousness of industrial, social and political conditions, and voices proclaiming the gospel of religious and moral reform are always to be heard in the academic wilderness."

"But, in general," continues President Angell, the student knows nothing of these questions.

To the wage earner, these social, economic and political problems are neither abstract nor fantastic. They are vital. They affect his life and the lives of those dependent upon him. He must understand them if he is to live as befit men.

To be merely interested in them "in the presence of an election" is no solution. An uneducated ballot is the joy of privilege.

As citizens and as trade unionists the workers must depend upon themselves to acquire a knowledge of the mighty forces now in operation.

They must distinguish between facts and formulas, reality and generalizations. To acquire this knowledge means study.

Workers must understand the trade union philosophy, that they may defend same and enlarge its scope.

If they are to save themselves from being swept into the maw of our mighty industrial machine that is now developing, they must link up a wider knowledge with their experience and their needs.

To ignore this silent industrial and political revolution now on is to arm ignorance and standpattism that is only interested "in the presence of an election"; that only acts when the status quo is threatened.

The A. F. of L. calls on trade unionists to organize workers' colleges and study classes. Acting with the Workers' Education Bureau, 476 West 24th street, New York city, a workers' educational system has been developed that should attract every active trade unionist.

Wage workers, both men and women, should be intellectually equipped to meet present-day problems that were unknown even a decade ago.

AMERICA'S LABOR POWER AMPLE; OLD THEORY IS PROVEN UNSOUND

New York, Feb. 27.—The war taught this country that it need not depend on immigration for a labor supply, said W. W. Husband, assistant secretary of labor, speaking before a group of business women.

"What undoubtedly prevented immigration restriction in earlier years was the prevalent idea that this country is a haven of refuge for the oppressed peoples of the world," said Mr. Husband.

"Another question that worked against restriction was 'who shall do our work?' The general belief was that we had to have immigration to solve the question of our labor supply. The war showed that America could supply its own labor. Increased efficiency has also helped to solve that question. I know of one large concern that in 1924 had an output of $50,000,000 with a payroll of 22,000 men. In 1925 the same firm had an output of $92,000,000 with only 14,000. The answer is improved mechanical contrivances."

ARE SENATE PROBES COSTLY?

Alleging that senate investigations are a waste of money, it is proposed to put a limit on these probes which have cost $1,383,500 in the last 16 years.

Investigations are always opposed by those who profit by secrecy. The Teapot Dome investigation not only revealed how official higher-ups are linked with big business, but it saved priceless natural resources that congress set aside for national defense. Congress placed these lands in charge of the secretary of the navy.

Through a presidential order—which courts hold to be unlawful—this control was taken from the secretary of the navy and placed in the hands of Secretary of the Interior Fall. He leased the Teapot Dome and Elk Hills oil reserves to private exploiters.

The two deals assured profits that would mount into millions of dollars, but a handful of senators braved the wrath of privilege by demanding an investigation. The testimony at the trial showed that the government finally acted, and various courts now hold these leases are illegal and the parties thereto are facing criminal conspiracy charges as well as civil proceedings.

That senate investigation saved natural resources of incalculable value. It also drove two unfaithful cabinet members into private life. The recent senate investigation of the internal revenue bureau was also educational and the frantic efforts to end discussion of Secretary Mellon's aluminum trust is significant.

Are senate probes costly when injustice is exposed?

CHINESE ARE WRONGED BY WESTERN NATIONS

New York, Feb. 27.—"If the great powers of the world can enforce their codes of morality upon the Chinese, why can not Eastern peoples apply the same principle to the West?" asked Dr. Sao-ke Alfred Sze, Chinese minister, in an address before the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.

The speaker intimated that if the great powers insist on special rights in China, that nation may demand the abrogation of treaties. He said that the enforcement of the opium traffic on Chinese by the western nations, "which admittedly debauches" hundreds of thousands of Chinese, will result in a loss of respect for western ideals, and "the governments of the West will lose somewhat of the regard which they now enjoy in eastern Asia."

"By this I mean," said the Chinese statesman, "that it will henceforth be more difficult for them to convince the powers of the East of the sincerity of their professions of good will."

Dr. Sze defended the boycott used by his people against the products of nations that have usurped their rights.

"This agency (the boycott) is in harmony with Chinese ideals, since it is popular as distinguished from bureaucratic or governmental power and it eschews the use of physical force, the employment of which, according to Chinese moral ideas, is brutal and irrational," said Dr. Sze.

HOW PUBLIC IS GOUGED

Washington, Feb. 27.—Interesting information on coal gouging by retailers was revealed at a joint congressional hearing on the coal inquiry.

Last November the Interstate Commerce Commission made an investigation of the sale of the Pocahontas bituminous coal in New Britain, Conn., at $18 per ton. The commission traced the shipment back to the point of origin, which was a station in Pennsylvania called Scully Scales. It was found that the coal had been sold at $2 per ton at the mine, and that the freight charge to New Britain was $4.62, making a total of $6.62 per ton. The retailers charged $18 per ton.

PICTURE BREAKS RECORD

Washington, Feb. 27.—"Labor's Reward," the moving picture of the A. F. of L. and Union Label Trades organizing and publicity campaign, broke all records in Chattanooga. In a telegram to John J. Manning, secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades department, W. C. Birchfield, secretary of the Tennessee State Federation of Labor, said that 5,000 persons saw the picture at one performance and 2,000 were unable to secure admittance.

PEOPLE LOSE CONTROL OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Baltimore, Feb. 27.—Citizens are attacking the Maryland public service commission, which is charged with being an adjunct to public utilities. Before the commission was created the legislature controlled these corporations, but the plea was made that these matters "should be taken out of politics." The governor appoints members of the commission. Only recently a former chairman of the commission said that in the entire existence the commission has never been responsible for lower rates.

The people's troubles are increased by a decision by the attorney general that the local street car company has property right in the streets of Baltimore.

MINERS' STRIKE OVER; KILLINGS RESUMED

Scranton, Pa., Feb. 27.—The best proof that the miners' strike has ended is deaths in the mines that are again announced. The first fatality since September 1 last occurred in this city, when John Lemanek was caught in a pocket of black damp a few hours after he started to work.

ELEVATOR MEN ADVANCE

Chicago, Feb. 27.—A wage increase has been secured by the Elevator Operators' union. A yearly vacation of one week with pay is included.

NEW FEUDALISM PREDICTED; INDUSTRIALISTS IN CONTROL

Cleveland, Feb. 27.—A new feudalism, with everybody fed and nobody free, was declared a possibility by Rev. Dr. John A. Ryan of the Catholic university, Washington, in a speech before the Cleveland Forum.

In tracing the development of present-day industrialists, Dr. Ryan said that this new feudalism is threatening the liberty of America.

Political liberty in the United States is not threatened, he said, but civil and economic liberty "are today in greater danger than at any time in the last century and a quarter." He deplored the tendency of legislatures, executives and courts "to diminish, under the stress of an assumed present emergency, such liberties as freedom of speech, or printing and of association." Injunctions against labor bodies and "legal toleration" of monopolies were pointed out as attacks upon economic liberty.

"It is highly significant that the recent restrictions upon civil as well as economic liberty can be traced, on the whole, to economic motives and economic influences," he continued.

"The decline of both kinds of liberty is only one of many indications that we are approaching a condition of society in which the great masters of industry will be permitted to do about what they please, on the theory that such a policy is best for the common good.

"After more than three centuries there approaches a return to feudalism. The new feudalism is political and industrial. Not improbably it will be more or less benevolent. The lords of industry will realize, at least for a considerable period, the folly that their position and profits will be more secure if they refrain from the cruder and coarser forms of injustice and permit the dependent classes, both urban and rural, to obtain a modest share of the increasing wealth of industry. The masses will probably enjoy a slightly higher degree of economic welfare than has ever been within their reach before. But they will enjoy it at the expense of genuine freedom. The mind of the masses will have become a slave mind.

"Possibly this is the kind of society that we want in this country, but it is not the kind that made and kept America free. It is emphatically not the kind of society that has controlled the destinies of the country to the custody of Abraham Lincoln."

FARM CO-OPERATIVES DOUBLE IN TEN YEARS

Washington, Feb. 27.—There were nearly 11,000 co-operative farmers' business organizations of all kinds, types and sizes listed with the department of agriculture at the close of 1925. This is double the number listed in 1915, when the first nation-wide survey of co-operative associations was made.

Over 70 per cent of the associations are in the 12 north central states, 6 per cent in the three Pacific states and 3 per cent in the five New England states. Minnesota leads with 1,383 associations.

WANT KEY MEN EXAMINED

Columbia, S. C., Feb. 27.—A legislative committee is boiling hearings on a bill that would prohibit railroads from employing incompetent telegraphers. The proposal is the result of a wreck on the Atlantic Coast Line at Moncks Corner, S. C., December 26, which a striking telegrapher was responsible for the death of four persons and injuries to 54 others.

Governor Would Demolish Tenements; New System Of State Aid Is Favored

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 27.—Departing from stereotyped methods, Governor Smith opened his drive for housing relief in New York city with recommendations to the legislature that are declared "radical" and "unconstitutional."

He declared that private enterprise has failed to meet the need for 70,000 new houses for low-waged citizens, and he called for the demolition and demolition on a large scale of land on which stand unsightly and unsanitary old tenements, which have been pronounced unfit for human habitation. The governor's plan provides that houses shall not be rented from $12.50 to $9 a room. Public funds would not be used, but the plan would be based on lower-cost financing through two prospective new state agencies, a state housing board and a state housing bank. Besides asserting the state's right of eminent domain; and limited dividend corporations model, wholly-private, would submit to regulation by the state with regard to profits and rentals.

The proposal is certain to arouse the hostility of landlords, and the cry "unconstitutional" is already heard.

"A report filed by the Housing and Regional Planning Commission says that private building for profit satisfies the immediate housing demand of 50 per cent of the population, but further construction becomes unprofitable. It is stated that two-thirds of the families in the city have incomes of less than $2,500 a year, and that no housing accommodation is available to this vast underlying population.

"A system of producing houses which is geared to the requirements of the current requirement of society must be accounted a social failure," the report says.

"During the first half century of investigation the close connection between bad housing and preventable diseases, like smallpox, and infectious diseases like tuberculosis, were clearly established. The draft riots during the Civil war called attention to the persistence of those evils with renewed force.

The report includes a list of old tenements in New York city which were declared a menace 40 years ago and which still are in use. Basing their opinion on the average rate of demolition of these tenements for the years 1909 to 1925 inclusive, the commission estimates that it will be 138 years before these sub-standard dwellings are demolished.

ROCKEFELLER "UNION" TRICKS COAL MINERS

Denver, Feb. 27.—The Colorado Labor Advocate makes vigorous reply to a local newspaper's favorable reference to Rockefeller's company "union" of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company, as compared with the anthracite miners' strike.

The implication that the Rockefeller plan saves employes and operators losses of great conflicts is a sophistry that ought to be answered every time it is made," said the labor paper.

Under the Rockefeller plan the coal miners of Colorado are at the mercy of the company. While the Colorado Fuel and Iron company was raising the price of coal $1.25 a ton to Denver consumers, it was cutting the miners' pay about 35 per cent. The Rocky Mountain News and the Denver Post printed the story that the miners wanted a wage cut.

"Here is what happened: The C. F. & I. closed down certain mines. After men had been partially starved into submission they were offered a chance to sign a petition asking a wage cut. And as Vice President Lichty of the C. F. & I. told the editor of this paper, 'if they didn't sign the petition, their wages were not cut—the mines were closed.'

"So, thanks to the Rockefeller plan, Colorado coal miners are working 140 days a year at from $3.25 to $6.25 a day. They know they are helpless in the hands of the great corporation.

"And they are organizing just as they organized before 1913—if you get what we mean."

HUGE ARMAMENTS CAN'T BRING PEACE

New York, Feb. 27.—Security against war through armaments is a myth, said Sir Henry Lunn of London at a gathering of prominent churchmen in this city.

The speaker is editor of the Review of the Churches, and is a prominent Methodist layman in Great Britain.

"At present," Sir Henry said, "the European nations are in danger of seeking security through armaments. The fear of other nations and the piling up of armaments led to the war in 1914 and may have the same result again. War should be outlawed and declared a crime, and there should be submitted a policy of friendship and understanding for force."

PRESIDENT'S TAX ON INCOME IS SAVED

Washington, Feb. 27.—Through a ruling by the internal revenue bureau, President Coolidge will not have to pay $20,000 income tax. The president's salary is set by congress, and it can not be reduced. It can not be taxed, the ruling holds.

The treasury department has returned $60,000 to the estate of the late President Harding. Because of the statute of limitation the ruling will not affect the $150,000 taxes paid by the late President Wilson. Income taxes are not paid by the federal judiciary, and it is believed that this ruling will apply to the cabinet and members of congress.

BUSINESS SHOULD AID AMERICAN VESSELS

New York, Feb. 27.—The American merchant marine can compete with the world and American business men should aid the vessels of their country, Captain George Fred of the steamship President Roosevelt told a group of business men who banqueted him and his crew for rescuing the crew of the British freighter Antinone.

Captain Fried denied the claim that our merchant marine can not meet foreign competition. He told the business men that they should patronize the vessels of their own country.

NEW STATE EXECUTIVE

New York, Feb. 27.—The executive board of the New York State Federation of Labor has chosen John Sullivan, a labor lawyer of that organization, to serve as president. He succeeds James P. Holland, who has resigned to accept Mayor Walker's appointment as a member of the board of standards and appeals of New York city. The new state executive is a member of the Brewery and Soft Drink Workers' International union.

PRESS ASSISTANTS GAIN

Denver, Feb. 27.—Press assistants employed in commercial printing offices have raised wages to $36 a week and reduced the work week from 46 to 44 hours.

IS SALES TAX NEXT? MORE MONEY NEEDED

Washington, Feb. 27.—Are plans being laid to fasten the vicious sales tax on the people?

In the tax bill just passed by congress, every effort has been made to lessen the charge on wealth, and Congressman Green, chairman of the house ways and means committee, says "additional revenues from other sources" will have to be raised next year.

Under the sales tax a charge would be levied on every purchase. This system was urged by a nation-wide propaganda, four years ago, and was denounced in 1921 by the Denver convention of the A. F. of L.

The convention declared that "the turnover sales tax is an amazingly brazen attempt to pile up on the consuming masses a share of the burden of taxation greatly disproportionate to their ability to pay."

"The concentration of wealth and income in our country," it was stated, "has reached a point which constitutes a menace to our national institutions, as 23,000 millionaires own over 27 per cent of the national wealth and the 36 richest people of America own nearly 2 per cent of the national wealth. These wealthy people and the monopolists and financial interests are seeking to repeal existing laws taxing such concentrated wealth, to reduce the amount of taxes which this wealth must pay and are advocating a sales tax or consumption tax to raise at least two billion dollars a year, most of which will be paid by the workers of America in the factories, mines, transportation, trade and on the farms."

UNIONS LEAD IN URGING SOCIAL PROGRESS

By WILLIAM GREEN
President, American Federation of Labor

The American Federation of Labor has led in the advocacy of compulsory education and legislation dealing with child labor, workmen's compensation and other subjects of social justice. It has protested against the imposition of industrial penalties not only upon the membership of the American Federation of Labor, but upon defenseless non-union working men and women. It is the voice of American labor. Working men and women look to it for guidance and protection, and have been grossly disappointed in the furtherance of social, religious and humane undertakings, seek its assistance.

We give freely and fully our support to every worthy cause, and we register vigorous opposition to every movement founded upon selfishness, error and wrong. The achievements of organized labor is a tribute to its effectiveness and its strength. What has been accomplished is evidence of what we may further be able to do. We will accomplish many things and we will be able to do much more for the workers and for society at large as we grow in numbers, strength and influence.

Our membership should be increased from 3,000,000 to 15,000,000. More than that number of workers are eligible to membership. Those who are eligible should respond to our call and unite with their fellow workers, so that the economic influence of the American labor movement can be immeasurably increased.

There is a place in the organized labor movement for every working man and woman. Their personal interests require them to join. They can help themselves and they can be of great assistance to others. I appeal to the heart and mind and conscience of every worker who may not be identified with our movement to join with us.

WILL CHECK SUITS AGAINST COMBINES

Jackson, Miss., Feb. 27.—The state legislature has passed a bill which prohibits suits under the anti-trust law unless approved by the governor and attorney general. Pending suits will be withdrawn.

The governor recommended the bill, which will end the $12,000,000 suit against the Ford Motor company, pending in the federal court. Discussion of the bill centered around this point which speakers declared harmed Mississippi.

CAP MAKERS WIN STRIKE

New York, Feb. 27.—Three locals of the Cloth, Cap and Millinery Workers' International union ended a sweeping victory over 165 shops, following a general strike. The union shop and wage increases were secured. Employers deposited more than $25,000 for the faithful observance of the agreement.

Forty-four former union shops have returned to the fold.

CARPENTERS WANT MORE

Minneapolis, Feb. 27.—By a vote of 2,265 to 358, organized carpenters in this city and St. Paul have declared for a wage scale of $1.12½ an hour. The present rate is 90 cents.

WELL-FED STOMACH NEW WAGE SYSTEM

Philadelphia, Feb. 27.—"The full dinner pail," a political slogan of 30 years ago, has been revived as a method to determine wage rates by the Philadelphia Rapid Transit company. Cultural values, education and higher living standards will be subordinated to the one question: "How much does it take to fill a man's stomach?"

The company is anti-union, and maintains a company "union." Rates are now determined by the average rate paid in Detroit, Cleveland and Chicago. The latest one men of those cities are thoroughly organized. Whenever they are successful in their fight for higher living standards, the local company falls in line. This "trailing behind" will be replaced by the full dinner pail.

The company—not the "union"—announces the new plan. A number of market baskets with fixed contents, have been prepared, the prices of which are determined from month to month. Wages are adjusted so that at all times the contents of the pay envelope shall be sufficient to buy the same number of standard market baskets.

ALUMINUM TRUST PROTECTED, SARGENT PLEADS: "NO PROOF"

Washington, Feb. 27.—Attorney General Sargent has ruled that there is not sufficient proof to sustain a conspiracy charge against the aluminum trust, in which Secretary of the Treasury Mellon is interested.

The violation includes charges of delayed shipments of material to a competitor; furnishing defective material to a competitor and refusal to promise shipments and unreasonable delay in delivery.

The Federal Trade Commission reported that the trust violated a court decree, and Senator Walsh showed that this report by the government attorney general for three months and 24 days before any action was taken. In a bitter arraignment of the methods of the department of justice in dismissing such matters as this a majority of that commission being of the same political party as the administration, Senator Walsh declared that efforts of transferred by the attorney general of the United States, allied politically in the same party with him, a fellow member of the cabinet—I say, sir, if this charge is dismissed upon such a pretense of an investigation as has been reviewed here, fie upon your laws!

"By your vote you will either vindicate or undermine the confidence of the American people in their government."

"The charge is specifically said by a great criminal lawyer that 'you can not convict $100,000,000.' The iconclasts of Russia assail our government as being dominated by vast aggregations of capital, the controlling spirits in which manage to work their will through the machinery of government, which we fondly believe assures in this country government by the people. The hold-up man, the confidence man, the burglar who prowls about your premises at midnight, all ply their trade and salve their consciences with the conviction that many men of millions get in one way or another immunity for their crimes.

"Mr. President, if this charge is dismissed in the charge in effect against a man of great wealth, a member of the president's cabinet, a charge preferred by the department of government created by congress for the express purpose, among others, of investigating just such matters as this, a majority of that commission being of the same political party as the administration, and charges of transfer by the attorney general of the United States, allied politically in the same party with him, a fellow member of the cabinet—I say, sir, if this charge is dismissed upon such a pretense of an investigation as has been reviewed here, fie upon your laws!

"By your vote you will either vindicate or undermine the confidence of the American people in their government."

COST OF SICKNESS REVIEW ON WORKERS

New York, Feb. 27.—American wage workers lose $250,000,000 a year in wages through illness, says the National Industrial Conference. Industry, also, is a loser, it is pointed out, through decreased output. In one typical New England plant, it is said, employing 4,500 workers, illness cost the concern in one year more than $267,500. The workers lost $202,000 in wages, with $45,000 spent in medical care. Their disabilities entailed another $56,000 of expense in charitable relief and care.

WORKERS' COLLEGES INCREASE IN NUMBER

New York, Feb. 27.—Workers' colleges, consisting of evening classes conducted by labor organizations, are increasing in number according to a statement issued by the Workers' Education Bureau. The constitution of the bureau provides for functional representation to the A. F. of L., to national and international affiliated, to local unions, workers' colleges and study classes. The representatives of the A. F. of L. are Matthew Woll, George W. Perkins and John P. Frey.

"These workers' colleges are formed, as a rule," the bureau's statement says, "by city central bodies, though several state federations and national unions have appointed full-time educational directors to promote them. They are primarily for adult wage earners of both sexes. The studies tend to center around the great social and economic problems of the day, although in every case the subjects are decided by the college itself.

"In some respects these colleges are better fitted for the study of social and economic subjects than is the ordinary college or university. One of the important parts of the work of the bureau's is that the workers who attend are as a rule deeply interested in social problems, which they intend to study.

"This claim is sustained by President Angell of Yale university, who said, in his annual report, issued February 18:

"'A few ardent souls are always stirred by the unrighteousness of industrial, social or political conditions, and voices proclaiming the gospel of religious and moral reform are always to be heard in the academic wilderness. But, in general, the undergraduate is ill-informed about political affairs, and notably indifferent to them, except in the presence of an election.'

"It is certain that workers' colleges will play a very important part in the future history of America," the bureau's statement says. "For information about them write to the Workers' Education Bureau of America, 476 West 24th street, New York."

WALL STREET URGED TO "CLEAN HOUSE"

New York, Feb. 27.—Wall street will face radical legislation if it does not "clean house," in the opinion of Professor William Z. Ripley of Harvard university, in continuing his protest against corporations and practices to the public that has no voting power. The managements of these corporations refuse to give anything all power to select stock, which they or other "insiders" hold.

"If public utility corporations force the issue," said Professor Ripley, "it will not be the first fracas of the kind that I have been in. It will be but a repetition of the fight to clean up the railroads, which started in 1900. If the railroads had united at the time in condemnation of such occurrences as the notorious reorganization of the Chicago & Alton by Harriman we might never had much of the federal legislation which later was enacted."

The so-called "consumer ownership" of public utilities has good and bad features, said Professor Ripley.

"The system is fraught with dangerous possibilities, which may degenerate into practical bribery of the particular class concerned, and result in a scale of rates unjust to the non-investing consumer."

Prof. Ripley's charge has aroused opposition of public utility companies, who reply with the usual charges of "attacks" such as did railroad wreckers 25 years ago.

OPPOSE COMPENSATION

Providence, R. I., Feb. 27.—Metal trades and textile employers have joined with private liability companies to fight the Lawton-Datson compensation and industrial commission bill.

The employers' associations are attempting to protect an annual business of $2,000,000 that is based on injuries and deaths of workers. The manufacturers plead that the compensation law "will cost too much."

TOO MANY PAINTERS

San Francisco, Feb. 27.—Organized painters protest against stories that there is a scarcity of building trades mechanics in this city and in California. Carpenters and other craftsmen have made similar protest.